

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A light-quantity adjusting apparatus comprising:

- a main body in which an opening is formed;
- at least two light-blocking members moved with respect to the opening to change an area of a light-passing aperture;
- an optical filter moved with respect to the opening to insert and remove with respect to a region opposed to the light-passing aperture;
- an actuator serving as a drive source; and
- a drive mechanism for driving the light-blocking ~~member~~ members and the optical filter by drive force from the actuator,

wherein the drive mechanism has an operation range in which a displacement amount of the optical filter with respect to the opening is made larger than a displacement amount of the light-blocking ~~member~~ members with respect to the opening, while the actuator operates by a predetermined amount, and

wherein a moving speed of the optical filter to the opening is higher than a moving speed of the at least two light-blocking members throughout entire period of control operation.

2 (CANCELED):

3 (ORIGINAL): A light-quantity adjusting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism has a first operation range in which the displacement amount of the optical filter is made larger than the displacement amount of the light-blocking member and a second

operation range in which the displacement amount of the optical filter is made smaller than that of the first operation range.

4 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A light-quantity adjusting apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the drive mechanism drives the optical filter on an insert side with respect to the opening in the first operation range and drives the optical filter on a remove side in the second operation range.

5 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A light-quantity adjusting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the drive mechanism comprising:

- a first drive member, driven by the actuator, for driving the light-blocking member;

- a holding member holding the optical filter; and

- a second drive member, connected to the first drive member at a connection portion and driven by the first drive member, for driving the holding member,

wherein, on the connection portion, an interlocking mechanism is arranged, the interlocking mechanism includes a cam region in which the displacement amount of the optical filter with respect to the opening is made larger than the displacement amount of the light-blocking member with respect to the opening ,while the actuator operates by a predetermined amount.

6 (ORIGINAL): A light-quantity adjusting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the optical filter, the width of a portion inserted into the light-passing region first is larger than the width of a portion inserted into the light-passing region second.

7 (ORIGINAL): An optical apparatus comprising:

- a light-quantity adjusting apparatus according to claim 1; and

- an image-taking optical system including the light-quantity adjusting apparatus.

8 (ORIGINAL): A camera comprising:

a light-quantity adjusting apparatus according to claim 1;

an image-taking optical system including the light-quantity adjusting apparatus;

and

an image pickup element which photoelectrically converts an object image formed by the image-taking optical system into an electric signal.

9 (NEW): A light-quantity adjusting apparatus comprising:

a main body in which an opening is formed;

at least two light-blocking members moved with respect to the opening to change an area of a light-passing aperture;

an optical filter moved with respect to the opening to insert and remove with respect to a region opposed to the light-passing aperture;

an actuator serving as a drive source; and

a drive mechanism for driving the light-blocking members and the optical filter by drive force from the actuator,

wherein the drive mechanism has an operation range in which a displacement amount of the optical filter with respect to the opening is made larger than a displacement amount of the light-blocking members with respect to the opening, while the actuator operates by a predetermined amount, and

wherein the drive mechanism starts drive of the optical filter in a direction in which the optical filter is inserted into the region opposed to the light-passing aperture when the area of the light-passing aperture decreased to a predetermined area by the movement of the light-blocking members.